

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 00743 271559Z

47

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 SAM-01 SAB-01 ACDA-05 OMB-01 SSO-00

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P R 271550Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2793

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 743

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY

SUBJ: ASAD COMMENTS ON DE BORCHGRAVE INTERVIEW

REF: DAMASCUS 724

1. IN ANSWER TO ROWLAND EVANS' QUESTIONS DURING HIS FEB 27 INTERVIEW WITH ASAD, PRESIDENT SAID FOLLOWING ABOUT "NEWSWEEK" INTERVIEW HE HAD GIVEN DE BORCHGRAVE FEB 21.

2. PRESIDENT POINTED OUT HIS COMMENTS ON A FUTURE PEACE TREATY WITH ISRAEL TOOK UP ONLY A VERY BRIEF PART OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH DE BORCHGRAVE. HE DISAGREED WITH THE EMPHASIS GIVEN THIS PORTION OF THE INTERVIEW. IN FURTHER COMMENT, ASAD STRESSED THAT "WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT OUR PEACE EFFORTS; WE ARE IN REAL NEED OF PEACE BUT A PEACE TREATY IS SOMETHING ELSE."

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3. COMMENT: EVANS' COLUMN ON HIS ASAD INTERVIEW WILL

BE PUBLISHED ON SUNDAY MARCH 2. ADDRESSEES SHOULD
PROTECT THIS MATERIAL PRIOR EVANS' OWN PUBLICATION DATE.
MURPHY

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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